



FROM THE OFFICE OF  
**CONGRESSMAN JOHN SARBANES**  
MARYLAND'S THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

## THE GOVERNMENT BY THE PEOPLE ACT

### Building a Government Of, By and For the People

The Government By the People Act (H.R. 20) is a bipartisan reform package designed to combat the influence of big-money politics, raise civic engagement and amplify the voice of everyday Americans – putting the public interest ahead of special interests. Here's how it works.

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### Empower Americans to Participate

**Provide everyday Americans with a refundable My Voice tax credit to help spur small-dollar contributions to candidates for Congressional office.**

Empowering more Americans to participate in campaign giving will improve our representative democracy and reduce Congress' dependence on big-money interests.



### Amplify the Voice of the People

**Establish a Freedom from Influence Fund to multiply the impact of small-dollar donations.**

Small-dollar contributions (\$150 or less per election) will be matched from the fund, provided the candidate receiving the contribution forgoes big money special interests and focuses on earning broad-based support from small-dollar donors. Carefully crafted to provide participating candidates sufficient resources to compete, the Freedom from Influence Fund would make the grassroots supporter just as powerful as the big-money donor.

### Fight Back Against Big-Money Special Interests

**Prevent Super PACs and dark-money interests from drowning out the voices of everyday Americans.** In the wake of the *Citizens United* decision, unlimited outside spending has monopolized the airwaves in the final weeks of elections. Citizen-funded candidates who are able to raise at least \$50,000 in additional small-dollar donations within the 60-day "home stretch" of the general election would be eligible for additional resources, ensuring the voice of the people is heard.

For more information, visit [www.sarbanes.house.gov/bythepeople](http://www.sarbanes.house.gov/bythepeople) or contact Congressman John Sarbanes' office at (202) 225-4016.